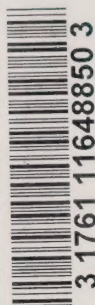


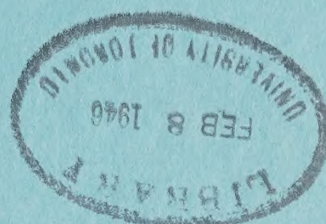
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Canada
AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES BOARD

*First
Report
1939/40*



(Summary of Activities)
to
31 March 1940

Dominion Department of Agriculture
Confederation Building
Ottawa

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AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES BOARD

Summary of Activities, from the Time of the Board's
Establishment, September 9, 1939, to March 31, 1940.

(Replacing Progress Reports
No. 1 to No. 6, inclusive)

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AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES BOARD

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Organization and Objectives

The day war was declared, the Minister of Agriculture called together the principal officers of his Department to discuss ways and means "to keep Canadian agriculture functioning in a manner which would supply the food and fibre needs of the people of Canada and their Allies during the period of the war and leave the Canadian farmer, as far as possible, in a position to follow his normal programme when peace returns." Preliminary surveys of the needs of the situation were immediately begun, and on September 9, 1939, an Agricultural Supplies Committee was established by Governor-in-Council (P.C. 2621) as a central directive agency, the personnel consisting of the six senior officers of the Dominion Department of Agriculture (P.C. 2622), with the Deputy Minister a member ex officio.

On March 6, 1940, the name of the above organization was changed to "Agricultural Supplies Board" and such alterations made in the regulations governing its constitution, powers, and duties as experience had shown to be needed from an administrative standpoint (P.C. 948). According to the preamble to the foregoing Order-in-Council, "in order to ensure that the agricultural resources of Canada shall be utilized to the best advantage during the war," the Board was established "for constructive direction of agricultural production and for dealing with matters pertaining to the purchase and distribution of supplies for use in agricultural production and for the preparation and conservation of agricultural products." And supplies are defined as meaning "feed, seed, fertilizers, insecticides, fungicides and other materials for use in the production, preparation and conservation of agricultural products," agricultural products in turn being defined as meaning "animals, meats, live and dressed poultry, eggs, dairy products, coarse grains, fruit and fruit products, honey, maple products, tobacco and other agricultural products grown or produced on the farm."

The work of the Board^{*} is carried on in co-operation with provincial committees representative of Provincial and Dominion field staffs and producer organizations, with such advisory committees representative of producer or trade organizations as developments may require from time to time, and with the various divisions of the Dominion Department of Agriculture. It also works in close harmony with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, the Chairman of the Agricultural Supplies Board being a member of the former body. Since a primary function of the Board is to initiate suggestions for production programmes in the light of information it may receive concerning wartime needs, contact was made at the earliest possible moment with the United Kingdom authorities, while the Chairman of the Board, as a member of a party headed by the Honourable T. A. Crerar, spent the last two months of 1939 in Britain discussing with the authorities concerned the probable needs of the Allies respecting the various commodities which Canada could supply. Through the usual government channels, this contact is maintained; the Board similarly keeps in touch with the Canadian situation with respect to wartime needs, and programmes are planned accordingly. The carrying forward of the specific programmes suggested, however, is recognized by the Board as the function of the provincial authorities in co-operation with producer organizations and Dominion Department of Agriculture officials.

^{*} For personnel, see Appendix.

The Board has established special committees^{*} to deal with seed supplies, fertilizers, pesticides, and apples. The duties of the Seed Supply Committee are to ensure adequate supplies of seed during wartime of field and garden crops, to promote the use of better seed for efficient production to meet wartime needs, and to conserve supplies. The Fertilizer Supply Committee has been given the task of ensuring adequate supplies of fertilizer materials, through recommending measures designed to prevent export, if necessary, of materials now in Canada and by seeking new sources of chemicals cut off by war; of encouraging the more efficient use of fertilizers; and of endeavouring to keep prices from rising more than unavoidable costs might warrant. The Pesticide Supply Committee is charged with conserving and ensuring the supply of essential chemicals used in the control of insect pests and disease. The National Apple Advisory Committee, made up of representatives of the principal commercial apple districts of Canada, acts in an advisory capacity to the Agricultural Supplies Board in connection with the disposal of surplus apples caused by restricted outlets due to war, and aims in formulating policies which are put into effect by Dominion and Provincial Departments.

In connection with an offer by the British Ministry of Food to purchase from Canada a year's supply of bacon, two Departmental sub-committees were established in September, 1939: a Production Committee and a Committee to work out the machinery for putting the proposed contract into effect. On the completion of the Bacon Agreement in December, the work of the latter committee was taken over by the Bacon Board. An Advertising Committee was likewise set up, in November, to plan the material for use in the bacon-hog advertisements which appeared in the farm papers during the winter months.

Details of the accomplishments of these committees will be found later in this report.

CO-OPERATION WITH THE PROVINCES

September Conference


A conference between the Agricultural Supplies Board and representatives of the Provincial Departments of Agriculture was held on September 27 and 28, 1939. The Honourable James G. Gardiner outlined Great Britain's probable needs for Canadian farm products as they appeared at that time and stressed the importance of so planning wartime activities that the agricultural industry should not be thrown out of gear when the war ended. Papers were presented by various officials of the Dominion Department of Agriculture indicating the situation in Canada in 1939 as compared with that of 1914 with regard to available and prospective supplies of agricultural products likely to be needed.

At the close of this conference, the provincial delegates agreed to co-operate in work undertaken by the Board and undertook the responsibility, in co-operation with producer representatives and the Dominion field men in their respective provinces, of implementing such production programmes as might become necessary. Most of the provinces, it should be added, later set up production committees to collaborate with the Agricultural Supplies Board and to give local direction to programmes undertaken.

Information on Activities

In response to a request made by the provincial delegates that the Board keep them fully informed of its activities, monthly

^{*} For personnel, see Appendix.



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Progress Reports have been issued by the Board. Beginning with the second of these, reports of activities received from the provinces during the month were appended, so that the Board became a "clearing house" for information not only as between itself and the provinces but also as between the various provinces themselves.

Originally designed as the Board's reports to the Dominion and Provincial Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture, these communications were so much in demand that larger editions were mimeographed so that the principal officers and field men in Dominion and Provincial Departments might be supplied with copies for their information, while copies were likewise sent to the editors of the more important farm papers throughout Canada - not for publication as issued, but rather to keep the editors informed. A still later development was the issuing of these monthly Progress Reports in both English and French editions.

The provinces have likewise been kept supplied with copies of Orders-in-Council and other documents relating to the work of the Board.

Bacon-Hog Programmes

In view of negotiations then under way with the British Ministry of Food for an agreement under which stipulated quantities of Canadian bacon would be bought by Britain, letters were sent to the Provincial Deputy Ministers on October 15, 1939, suggesting, in the light of feed supplies available and other factors, the basis for a bacon-hog programme for each province. Replies from the various provinces indicated that the Board's recommendations were found acceptable.

On November 10, letters went to the provinces outlining a campaign of educational advertising which the Board proposed launching in connection with the above programmes, and expressing the Board's opinion that in bacon work undertaken at that time, including advertisements, stress should be laid on quality, lowered production costs, and better distribution of marketings throughout the year, rather than on increased production. Certain suggestions made by the provinces in reply were incorporated in the advertisements, which appeared at monthly intervals in some 20 representative farm papers throughout Canada during the winter and early spring. Readers were directed to address enquiries regarding breeding, feeding, and other problems to the Provincial Department of Agriculture or to their local Experimental Farm or Agricultural College.

During February, A. W. Peterson, Chief of the Live Stock and Poultry Division of the Production Service, while visiting the various provinces in connection with the Department's regular live stock activities, acted as an official representative of the Board in discussing with provincial deputy ministers and representatives of provincial swine committees details concerned with the working out of wartime bacon-hog programmes. During these discussions, Mr. Peterson suggested the desirability of provincial swine committees co-operating with their local farm papers by sponsoring articles which would give local application to the general points stressed in the Board's advertising. He likewise reminded those concerned that high-cost areas would be the first to feel the effect of lower prices in the event of too many hogs being produced.

Seed-Conservation Programmes

With a view to ensuring efficient production of field crops in wartime, letters were sent to the provincial authorities on November 15, urging that immediate steps be taken to see that available supplies

of rust-resistant and other valuable strains and varieties of seed grains were conserved for seed purposes in Canada and not dissipated through feeding, sale as commercial grain, or export. Distribution of supplies was urged through the formation of local seed-feed exchanges. Replies received indicated that some provinces took more active steps than did others in this matter, but in all provinces much was accomplished in the way of seed conservation and utilization.

In support of these programmes, the Board conducted advertising campaigns in farm and local papers during February and March, informing farmers of the benefits of using Registered Seed Grain and Certified Seed Potatoes.

Wartime Publications

One of the activities of the Board during the winter months had to do with the preparation and distribution of special pamphlets in its Wartime Production Series. These pamphlets, which attempt to present in short, practical form information in support of production work in wartime, are being published in quantities large enough to allow the Board to service the distribution needs of provincial departments of agriculture, experimental farms, and agricultural colleges as well as fill individual requests received at Ottawa as a result of radio and other publicity given to the pamphlets. Most of the pamphlets are being published in English and French editions.

Early in March the revised list of pamphlets included in the series was sent to provincial departments of agriculture, experimental farms and agricultural colleges, and requests received for supplies during that time were filled as the various pamphlets were published. Provincial demand was so large for some of the items, that new editions had to be ordered.

SAFE-GUARDING SUPPLIES NEEDED-IN PRODUCTION

Through Seed Supply Committee

On its establishment by the Board in September, the Seed Supply Committee immediately undertook a comprehensive survey of Canada's seed resources. This survey shows seed to be available for practically all requirements in 1940, while many vegetable seeds were in sufficient supply for 1941. With regard to cereals, the only action deemed necessary was that taken through provincial agencies for the conservation and utilization of rust-resistant and other valuable strains and varieties, as mentioned earlier in this report. Increased production of field beans and peas was seen to be desirable for domestic needs, and the co-operation of interested provincial governments was sought in this connection. Grass and clover seeds needed no special action. Definite action, however, was taken with regard to the following:

Fibre Flax Seed - British sources of flax fibre and fibre flax seed having been curtailed as a result of war developments, the United Kingdom authorities sought from Canada increased supplies of fibre and asked that seed surplus to Canadian requirements be made available to the Government of Northern Ireland, where such seed was urgently needed. By Order-in-Council P.C. 2906, of October 5, 1939, the Agricultural Supplies Board was authorized to purchase all available supplies of fibre flax seed, to organize flax production areas, to raise seed for use in these areas, and to sell the remainder for export to Northern Ireland. Of the total yield of seed for 1939 of approximately 46,000 bushels of approved varieties, some 11,800 bushels were retained at present production centres for seeding in the spring of 1940;

9,782 bushels were in store at March 31, and over 4,000 bushels in process of cleaning - this total amount to be resold by the Board to growers in new areas; and shipments were made to Northern Ireland of 17,754 bushels. Purchases were made at \$5.50 per bushel for No. 1 Certified seed, \$4.25 for No. 1 seed, \$4.00 for No. 2 seed. Storage and insurance charges, at the rate of 1½¢ per bushel per month, are chargeable against the seed when sold. Purchase, storage, export, etc., of this seed were handled by the Seed Supply Committee.

Foundation Seed Potatoes - As a source of stock for renewing the seed supplies of producers of Certified seed potatoes, some 50,000 bushels had been produced in Canada in 1939 of "foundation seed." In view of the excellence of this stock, foreign markets were interested, and to ensure that the seed should be held in Canada, the Board was authorized, by Order-in-Council P.C. 3292, of October 25, 1939, to purchase available supplies of this seed and to arrange for its resale to select growers of Certified seed in Canada. Contracts were entered into with 54 growers in the Maritime Provinces for the purchase of 25,105 bushels of this stock, divided as follows: 24,245 bushels Green Mountain, 735 bushels Irish Cobbler, 125 bushels President, whilst agreements were made whereby 10,000 bushels more were held by growers. Plans were worked out during March for the resale of this stock to growers of Certified seed potatoes.

Measures, including advertising, were likewise taken to encourage growers of ordinary table stock to make wider use of Certified seed. One million bushels of Certified seed are sold each year as table potatoes while nine-tenths of Canada's total potato acreage are planted of inferior seed of low productivity. This situation was outlined to provincial departments of agriculture, and provincial committees have formulated improvement programmes which include the importation of carlots of Canadian Certified seed for local distribution in districts not already supplied and the selection of suitable areas for increased local production of this seed.

Field Root Seed - The survey conducted in the fall of 1939 showed the sugar beet seed situation to be unsafe; sugar companies, however, have intimated that they are stepping up seed production as fully as possible. To provide for the production of an independent supply, the Board purchased 600 pounds of leaf-spot-resistant sugar beet seed, some of which will be held in reserve in case of emergency. Stocks have also been secured of registered mangolds and swedes to be used similarly.

Garden Vegetable Seeds - A study was made of quantities of vegetable seeds imported and sources of importations and of quantities of Registered and Certified seeds on hand. Recommendation was then made for increased production of certain sorts, suitable quantities of base stock seeds being purchased under authority of Order-in-Council P.C. 1/1045, of March 19, 1940, some of this seed being distributed to seed producers in suitable areas and the remainder held in store.

Through Fertilizer Supply Committee

Potash Supplies - The Fertilizer Supply Committee, established in September, 1939, at once undertook a survey of the fertilizer supply situation. This survey was completed last November. Briefly it was found that of the essential fertilizers needed for Canadian crop production in 1940, potash was the only doubtful item. Canadian importers were advised to make special efforts to obtain supplies of potash salts in view of possible shortage. Sufficient potash has been obtained for the year from the United States and France, and prospects are good for continued supplies from both sources. At the request of the Fertilizer Supply Committee, engineers of the Mines and Resources Department have

made exploratory borings in the Malagash salt area of Nova Scotia in an attempt to discover natural potash mines in Canada. Final results were not known by March 31.

Restriction of Exports - To conserve the agricultural production of fertilizer supplies already in Canada at the outbreak of war, provision was made under the authority of Order-in-Council P.C. 3124, of October 12, 1939, for preventing the export of fertilizer except under permit.

Reductions in Numbers of Analyses - As production matters primarily come under the direction of the provinces, it was considered only proper to restrict the sale of fertilizers under the Fertilizers' Act to those best suited to the production of crops within each province and as recommended by the province. This idea was incorporated in the Order-in-Council already mentioned (P.C. 3124). Fertilizer Committees were set up in those provinces lacking such organizations at the outbreak of war, and useful work has been done in all provinces by cutting down the confusingly large number of analyses offered by the trade and eliminating fertilizers of inferior or doubtful value.

Following representations made by the Fertilizer Supply Committee, Canadian fertilizer firms agreed that prices of chemical fertilizers would not be advanced except to cover increased costs of materials, bags, and transportation.

Through Pesticide Supply Committee

In view of shortages of the common insecticides, fungicides, and disinfectants during the latter part of the last war, the Board established a Pesticide Supply Committee, early in October, 1939, to ensure adequate supplies of such materials. Surveys were made of supply possibilities with respect to some 150 different chemicals. The Committee learned that Canadian production of most of the essential chemicals used in pest control could be increased to a point of self-sufficiency, that United States chemical industry has developed to a point where it could supply almost indefinitely most of the chemical needs for pest control on this continent, and that important items such as copper sulphate and the arsenates may be obtained freely from British and French sources.

To the present, only three items of supply are in doubt: Metaldehyde (ordinarily imported from Switzerland) has been cut off, but there are about two years' supply in Canada and a Canadian concern has offered to manufacture if necessary. Pyrethrum flowers (from Japan) is a product which has increased greatly in price; substitutes, however, in the form of certain synthetic chemicals manufactured on a large scale in the United States, are still comparatively cheap. Mercurial dust disinfectants may be short owing to high prices of metallic mercury, which has increased more than four-fold since the war started. Fortunately there is at least one year's supply of mercurial dust disinfectants now in Canada. These are being sold at 1939 prices, but should prices advance sharply, formalin may be substituted.

Through Direct Action

Sugar for the Wintering of Bees - With sugar difficult to obtain in quantity, the Board arranged, during October, 1939, for the collection of names of beekeepers requiring sugar for fall feeding, and for working out the amounts needed by each. Through the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, arrangements were then made to see that these beekeepers were given permits enabling them to purchase their supplies.

Rennet Materials - In view of the fact that Canada can no longer look to Poland as her chief source of the rennet needed in the manufacture of cheese, an Order-in-Council (P.C. 148) was passed on January 13, 1940, on the Board's recommendation, prohibiting the export of calves' stomachs suitable for use in the preparation of rennet.

Flax Fibre - To make sure that available supplies of flax line fibre and tow produced in Canada in 1939 should all go to the British Fibre Control Board, an Order-in-Council (P.C. 3532) was passed on November 7, 1939, on the recommendation of the Agricultural Supplies Board, prohibiting the export of fibre flax save under license.

In response to a request by the British Fibre Control Board that Canada increase her production of flax fibre, the Board has encouraged the development of fibre production in those sections where soil and climate favour maximum yield of fibre as well as of seed and where capital is available for financing the mills, machinery and other expenses involved in getting new units under way. Acreage of approved varieties of fibre flax is being increased from some 8,000 in 1939 to 20,000 in 1940, several present producing areas being expanded and important new units being developed in the Cobden-Beachburg district in Ontario and in St. Maurice, Maskinonge, and Chateauguay counties in Quebec. A certain amount of seed was likewise purchased by the Board for use in seed and fibre production trials in Western Canada.

Live Stock Feeds

From the very outbreak of the war, the Agricultural Supplies Board has kept close touch with the supply and price situation with respect to the various classes of feeds and feeding oils used in live stock and poultry production.

Millfeeds - Early in September, 1939, the Board held a joint session with the Wartime Prices and Trade Board to discuss with representatives of the milling industry the necessity of protecting the Canadian farmer against unwarranted increases in prices of mill offals. Later, in response to complaints made by live stock interests that prices of millfeeds were getting out of line with prices of hogs and dairy products, studies were initiated by the Board of long-term relationships between prices of wheat and coarse grains and those of millfeeds on the one hand, and between prices of millfeeds and those of hogs, butterfat, and whole milk on the other. The purpose of these studies was to establish ratios by which relationships might be measured, since one of the Board's duties is "to formulate and submit to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board measures designed to prevent abnormal relationships."

Preliminary studies showed that, apart from the period of rapidly rising prices in September, prices of millfeeds had, generally speaking, reflected grain prices, while pre-war relationships between prices of millfeeds and those of hogs and dairy products had been resumed before the close of 1939.

At the same time the Board, realizing the need of continuous study of feed matters in view of wartime needs and of the possibility of rapid changes in the supply and price situation, recommended the establishment, under the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, of a special committee on feedstuffs for the closer investigation of feed prices, supplies, holdings, and movements in general, with a view to having a basis for such action as might be deemed necessary. This committee was set up in February, 1940.

High-Protein Feeds - Investigations were made of prices of tankage and meat scrap and of proprietary feeds using tankage, meat scrap, milk powders, and other high-protein ingredients. Preliminary

studies having shown relationships between prices of these feeds and those of live stock to be more disturbed than in the case of millfeeds, the matter was turned over to the above-mentioned special committee on feedstuffs for whatever attention or action might be needed. At the same time, the Board is encouraging the increased production of flax, particularly in the West, and of soybeans with a view to a larger domestic production of linseed meal and soybeans as sources of protein supplements for live stock feeding.

Feeding Oils - The Agricultural Supplies Board has given considerable attention to the matter of supplies of cod liver and other fish oils used as protective ingredients in poultry and other live stock feeds. Enquiries having elicited the information that supplies could not be looked for from Norwegian and British sources, from which Canada normally draws large quantities of cod liver oil, investigation was made of possibilities of finding in Canada the oils needed for feed purposes. These possibilities were thoroughly discussed at a special meeting of the Board on December 30, 1939, at which were present the directors of the Fisheries Research Laboratories at Prince Rupert, B.C., and Halifax, N.S., as well as representatives of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board, the Department of Fisheries, and other interested persons.

It was reported that the present production of 60,000 gallons of cod liver oil on the Atlantic Coast could be stepped up to 300,000 gallons a year, provided oil prices and markets for fish are satisfactory; and that adequate supplies of pilchard, herring and other oils from the Pacific Coast are likely to be available this coming year to supplement the supply of cod liver oils in feeding, and it is expected that an adequate supply of fortifying oils can be obtained.

Since a considerable number of governmental departments are interested in this question, it was decided to centralize the investigations. The Board therefore transmitted to the Wartime Prices and Trade Board the results of its studies, but is keeping in close touch with developments.

Resolutions re. Feed Prices - During the period under review, resolutions were addressed to the Board by several organizations in Eastern Canada urging that maximum prices be set for feeds, to allow farmers a reasonable margin of profit on hogs and dairy products. In its replies, the Board explained that a special committee, as mentioned above, is giving close attention to feed prices; at the same time, it pointed out that a great many farmers in other parts of Canada are directly interested in securing reasonably good prices for wheat and other grains. The Board likewise questioned the soundness of undertaking, in any part of Canada, hog-raising programmes based on the purchase of all feed required. Through certain of its Special Pamphlets and in other ways it has suggested that farmers individually may protect themselves in feed matters by producing on their own farms not only larger quantities of grains but also greater variety.

FINDING OUTLETS FOR "SURPLUSES"

Not all agricultural problems in wartime are caused by increased demand for products; "surplus" problems arise due to the cutting off, as a result of war developments, of export markets that ordinarily absorb varying proportions of individual commodities produced on Canadian farms. During the period under review, problems of this class arose in connection with apples, tobacco, poultry, and other products.

Apples

With a larger-than-average crop ready for harvesting when war broke out and with normal export movement likely to be greatly curtailed both by lack of shipping and by lack of demand from Britain, Canadian apple growers asked for help. Though Nova Scotia and British Columbia were in worst plight, since the former normally exports 70 per cent or more of her crop and the latter exports some 50 per cent, it was recognized that the turning back to Canadian markets of the 2.8 million barrels available for export from the 5.5 million barrel crop for 1939 would affect fruit growers throughout all of Canada.

On September 15, therefore, representatives of growers' associations and the trade were called to Ottawa to discuss with Dominion and Provincial officials the whole question. The Dominion Government agreed to give various forms of assistance: aid in processing (dehydrating and canning) of Nova Scotia surplus apples of marketable varieties; direct purchase of certain quantities of British Columbia apples for distribution in drought areas of the West, and assistance in the export of B. C. apples up to an agreed amount; zoning of sales areas within Canada for orderly marketing of fresh fruit - accomplished with the help of the National Apple Advisory Committee, representative of the principal commercial apple areas, set up under the Agricultural Supplies Board; raising of minimum grade requirements to see that only the best apples went to market.

Negotiations were likewise entered into with the United Kingdom, which resulted, in November, 1939, in an agreement by the latter to take 50 per cent of the average of the last two years' importations, or a total of 1,350,000 long cwt. On the basis of their respective shares in the two years' exports, this would have allowed Nova Scotia to export 711,105 barrels, Ontario 43,964 barrels, and British Columbia 1,326,024 boxes. But in view of the undertaking to process more than half the Nova Scotia commercial pack of apples, Nova Scotia's share was reduced first to 449,030 barrels, and then by progressive reductions as her exports fell below expectations to a final distribution as follows: Nova Scotia 353,640 barrels, Ontario 70,732 barrels, and British Columbia 2,400,791 boxes. This worked out roughly at 25 per cent of the two-year average exports for Nova Scotia, 80 per cent for Ontario, and 90 per cent for British Columbia. At the end of March, 1940, Nova Scotia still had the right to ship, under this redistribution plan, some 5,000 barrels, Ontario slightly over 7,000 barrels, and British Columbia some 35,000 boxes.

This opening up to some extent of the export market and processing of large quantities of apples that normally would have been exported, together with the zoning of the domestic market and the stimulating of consumption in Canada through advertising and merchandizing campaigns financed by the Agricultural Supplies Board, has left the apple grower in a better position than looked possible in the early weeks of the war. The increase in apple juice production from 60,000 gallons in 1938-39 to 1,000,000 gallons or more in 1939-40 likewise helped, providing an outlet for sub-standard apples kept off the market by raised grade requirements.

Other Commodities

Other phases of Canadian agricultural problems, such as the marketing of a surplus of poultry and eggs as a result of the partial closing of the export market, negotiations for the shipment to Britain of Canadian honey (earlier regarded as a non-essential), negotiations with respect to tobacco and fur markets, and negotiations regarding wheat exports have been handled through regular Departmental agencies.

Cheese shipments have proceeded regularly, and during the period covered prices for this product were firm. A cheese agreement, similar to the Bacon Agreement, is being sought by Britain.

MISCELLANEOUS ACTIVITIES

In the early days of the war, the Board considered steps which might be taken to stabilize the dairy industry, particularly to avoid the diversion of milk from cheese factories to creameries and to ensure continuity in cheese production. Rising prices paid for cheese by the trade made other measures unnecessary.

Before the establishment of a Canadian Shipping Board to deal with such matters, shipping problems, particularly those faced by exporters of packing-house products, were from time to time subjects of discussion between members of the Agricultural Supplies Board and officials of the Department of Trade and Commerce and other governmental agencies.

In view of measures taken by the Board to ensure the shipment to the United Kingdom of all flax fibre available in Canada, procedure was worked out whereby Canadian manufacturers in need of linen yarns and threads could send their requests to the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Liverpool in case they found difficulty in having their orders filled through regular trade channels.

Though the details were handled entirely through Departmental channels, the Board has kept close touch with efforts to interest British and French authorities in Canada's position as a source of horses suitable for war or agricultural purposes.

Working through Departmental agencies, the Board made representations to the Department of National Defence at various times with respect to the desirability of including apples in army rations. In early February, the press of Canada carried the new schedule of items listed by the above Department for army ration purposes, with fresh apples and (when these are not available) dried apples included.

With a view to stabilizing the market for apple juice, a product of importance because of the need of finding new ways to use surplus apples, the Board has recommended to the Department of Agriculture the setting up of grading regulations under which apple juice may be marketed.

Many enquiries were received by the Board during the period under review regarding the possibility of securing contracts for the production of dehydrated fruits and vegetables, soups, and other prepared or semi-prepared foods for use in army rations. These were brought to the attention of the War Supply Board.

A very large number of offers - sometimes of processing patents, processing plants or warehouses, sometimes of personal services or services of organizations - have been acknowledged and filed; and the Board has tried, insofar as its resources permitted, to keep pace with the flow of requests for information coming from individuals, from farm organizations, and from provinces.

PRESS RELATIONS

For their information but not for publication, editors of farm papers were supplied with copies of briefs presented at the September, 1939, conference between the Board and provincial

representatives. The farm press has likewise received the monthly Progress Reports issued by the Board, short news releases being attached to indicate those items available for publication, while certain Orders-in-Council of general interest have also been given to farm paper editors for their files.

Advertising campaigns of an educational nature were conducted by the Board, as follows: one stressing quality and economy in bacon-hog production, carried on in some 20 farm papers throughout Canada during the winter and early spring months; one advising farmers to use Registered Seed Grain, and one pointing out the advantages of Certified Seed Potatoes to growers of table stock, the two latter being conducted in farm papers and rural weeklies during February and March.

In connection with the bacon-hog advertising, the Board endeavoured to provide editors with material which would enable them to support editorially the points stressed in the advertising copy. A generalized version of the letters sent to the provinces suggesting bacon-hog programmes for their individual needs and extracts from replies by deputy ministers were made available for the files of farm paper editors; certain feature articles, "exclusive" to the papers receiving them, were prepared by officials of the Experimental Farm Service to give local application to the bacon-hog programmes; and provincial swine committees were asked to co-operate with the editors in their provinces by sponsoring, when requested to do so by the editors concerned, articles for various papers.

The Secretary, accompanied by Fred James, of the Department's Publicity and Extension Branch, met with a number of Eastern farm paper editors in Toronto in February, 1940, and discussed with them the best method of getting out information to the farm press, while the same subject was discussed with Western editors through correspondence.

Statements have been released to the farm press and to the Canadian press from time to time: A general statement, under the Minister's name, early in October, 1939, giving leads on fall work that should be done in the light of possible war needs; a release showing what the "clean wool" price fixed for certain grades needed in military contracts meant in terms of fresh-clipped wool; a full statement for the farm press on the fibre flax situation, with a shorter release to the Canadian press, releases on various developments in the fertilizer situation, on the expected visit to Canada in April, 1940, of a commission to purchase horses for the French army, etc. Special articles on the work of the Board were also prepared, on request, for certain magazines.

A P P E N D I X

Personnel

Establishment of Board

The Agricultural Supplies Board was established September 9, 1939, (P.C. 2621) with the following named as members (P.C. 2622); A. M. Shaw (Chairman), R. S. Hamer (later appointed Vice-Chairman), E. S. Archibald, G. B. Rothwell, A. T. Charron, J. M. Swaine, with Dr. H. Barton, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, a member ex officio. Following the death of G. B. Rothwell, on December 3, 1939, J. M. McCallum was appointed in his place, while J. G. Bouchard was named to replace A. T. Charron upon the latter's retirement on March 9, 1940. On September 27, 1939, (P.C. 2893) S. R. N. Hodgins was appointed Secretary. On November 17, 1939, J. R. Peet "on loan" from the Marketing Service, was named Assistant Secretary.

Special Committees

To assist in carrying out its duties, the Agricultural Supplies Board has established the following special committees;

September 22, 1939 - Seed Supply Committee, consisting of N. Young (Chairman), T. M. Stevenson, W. T. G. Weiner, L. H. Newman, C. Sweet, L. S. McLaine; Secretary, A. M. W. Carter.

September 22, 1939 - Fertilizer Supply Committee, consisting of G. S. Peart (Chairman), L. W. Wright, E. S. Hopkins, G. D. Mallory, W. H. Losee (the latter two from the Department of Trade and Commerce); Secretary, A. M. W. Carter.

October 7, 1939 - Pesticide Supply Committee, consisting of G. S. Peart (Chairman), Arthur Gibson, H. T. Gussow, A. G. Lohead, C. H. Robinson, E. A. Watson, L. S. McLaine, G. D. Mallory, W. H. Losee; Secretary, A. M. W. Carter.

October 25, 1939 - National Apple Advisory Committee, consisting of R. L. Wheeler (Chairman), M. V. McGuire (British Columbia), G. H. Laird (Ontario), W. G. Tawse (Quebec), F. W. Walsh (Nova Scotia); Secretary, L. F. Burrows.

Departmental Committees

The following committees have been co-operating with the Agricultural Supplies Board in carrying out activities of the Department and the Board:

September 18, 1939 - Two Departmental committees were established to study an offer made by the British Ministry of Food to purchase a year's supply of bacon. (a) Production Committee - Under chairmanship of the late G. B. Rothwell. The new Chairman is A. W. Peterson. (b) Committee under chairmanship of L. W. Pearsall to work out machinery for putting the proposed contract into effect. Upon the sighting of the bacon agreement between the British Ministry of Food and the Canadian Government in December, 1939, this Committee was replaced by the Bacon Board.

November 8, 1939 - Bacon Advertising Committee, consisting of A. W. Peterson (Chairman), L. W. Pearsall, R. M. Scott. On November 17, 1939, P. E. Light became a member of the committee.

In addition, the Agricultural Supplies Board has solicited aid from several individual members of the Department of Agriculture and from groups of members, who have co-operated in carrying out, among other things, advertising work and statistical research.

